

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 14385 041941Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 14385

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: MITTERRAND AND PORTUGAL

1. WELL-KNOWN JOURNALIST AND COMMENTATOR WHO HAD LUNCH
LAST WEEK WITH FRANCOIS MITTERRAND, RECALLED FOR LABATT
FOLLOWING COMMENTS MADE BY THE PS FIRST SECRETARY RE-
GARDING PORTUGAL:

(A) THE FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY WILL DO EVERYTHING
POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS NOT ONLY
OUT OF INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF
LIKELY IMPACT EVENTS IN PORTUGAL WILL HAVE ON FRENCH
POLITICAL SCENE AND SPECIFICALLY ON PS-PCF RELATIONS.
SOURCE, HOWEVER, GOT THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT BEHIND
MITTERRAND'S FIRMNESS AND DETERMINATION TO STAND BEHIND
PSP LIES ALSO HIS ADMIRATION AND PERSONAL AFFECTION FOR
SOARES. SOURCE, WHO KNOWS SOARES WELL AND HAS
RESERVATIONS ABOUT HIS ABILITY AND POLITICAL ACUMEN,
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PAGE 02 PARIS 14385 041941Z

WAS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED TO OBSERVE MITTERRAND'S DEEP

FRIENDSHIP FOR SOARES.

(BJ) COMMUNIST PARTY INFLUENCE IN PORTUGAL, ESPECIALLY WITHIN AFM, COMES FROM THE FACT THAT PCP HAS THE FILES OF THE OLD REGIME'S SECRET POLICE AND IS USING THE INFORMATION THEREIN FOR BLACKMAILING PURPOSES AGAINST THE AFM LEADERS. MITTERRAND CLAIMED THAT HE HAS BEEN TOLD OF SPECIFIC INSTANCES OF SUCH BLACKMAILING WHICH HAVE CONVINCED HIM THAT THERE MUST BE SOME BASIS TO THIS EXPLANATION OF SOURCE OF PCP INFLUENCE.

(C) PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES IS PROBABLY COMMUNIST-LEANING (COMMUNISANT) AND NEEDS TO BE WATCHED CAREFULLY.

(D) SHOULD THE PORTUGUESE REGIME TURN FURTHER TO THE LEFT AND COME UNDER INCREASING PCP INFLUENCE, THE UNITED STATES WILL PROBABLY ENGINEER A SECESSION MOVEMENT IN THE AZORES FOR THE OBVIOUS PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING THE U.S. BASES THERE.

(E) THE HARD LINE WHICH PCP LEADER CUNHAL HAS BEEN FOLLOWING IS NOT PERHAPS WITHOUT ITS CHALLENGERS WITHIN PCP. ONE OF THESE CHALLENGERS IS THE NUMBER TWO PCP MAN, PATO, WHO IS REPORTED TO BE ADVOCATING A CLOSER COOPERATION WITH PSP TO PREVENT AFM DRIFT TOWARDS ASSUMPTION OF COMPLETE CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT. IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT WHEN PATO VISITED MOSCOW A FEW WEEKS AGO HE WAS RECEIVED WITH THE CONSIDERATION AND AT A LEVEL MORE FITTING FOR THE HEAD OF THE PARTY RATHER THAN HIS LIEUTENANT. THIS IS BEING CITED AS EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE SPECULATION THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE THEIR OWN RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF CUNHAL'S LINE IN TRYING TO GIVE THE PRESENT REGIME AN INCREASING REVOLUTIONARY CHARACTER AND ROLE.

2. COMMENT: SINCE THE LUNCH ABOVE TOOK PLACE AFTER THE LACHE MEETING OF SOUTH EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS WHICH WAS ATTENDED ALSO BY SOARES, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT MITTERRAND'S COMMENTS ARE BASED ON INFO AND STATEMENTS
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PAGE 03 PARIS 14385 041941Z

MADE BY SOARES. THE UNMISTAKABLE LANGUAGE USED BY MITTERRAND IN THE PS WEEKLY "UNITE" IN CASTIGATING THE PCP ROLE IN THE "REPUBLICA" AFFAIR SEEMS TO CORROBORATE MITTERRAND'S ASSERTION THAT THE PSF WILL SUPPORT TO THE HILT THE PSP.
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